

Curriculum Committee Minutes November 7, 2001

Present: Barry, Beck, Blake (for Tomhave), Clark, Derryberry, Hannaford, Kerrick, Kline, Kontogeorgopoulos, Mehlhaff, Oldis, Pasco-Pranger, Sackman, Warning (chair), Washburn, Weinman-Jagosh.

Visitor: Ricigliano

Warning called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Minutes were approved for the 10/24/01 meeting of the Committee.

Study Away Subcommittee report:

Kontogeorgopoulos reported on the Subcommittee's consideration of the prospect of offering institutional support for domestic "study away" programs, including the Biosphere project, Woodshole's Seamester, internships combining classroom and work experiences, and semesters spent at other U.S. institutions. The Subcommittee acknowledged the value of some of these programs, but recommended that the Committee should not at this time pursue affiliations with such programs for the following reasons:

- Many such programs require a commitment to send a specific number of students per year. The Subcommittee was wary of the possibility of having to recruit for the programs.
- Information on such programs is already available from ACA, and students are already given support by individual faculty (e.g., through letters of recommendation) and by the institution (e.g., UPS reviews and often accepts transfer credit from such programs) in their efforts to participate in these programs.
- Affiliation with these programs would increase the already heavy workload of the Study Abroad staff and selection committee.
- There is a financial cost to affiliation.

Kontogeorgopoulos emphasized that faculty members could still submit proposals about specific Study Away programs to the Curriculum Committee for consideration.

Pasco-Pranger asked where the initiative for the Subcommittee's consideration of this question came from. Barry answered that Peter Wimberger had expressed interest in affiliation with the Seamester program and Karin Sable in affiliation with Biosphere; one or more parents had also called Terry Cooney to ask why UPS was not affiliated with American University's internship programs; Cooney then suggested to Barry that the Committee consider whether to set a policy with regards to Study Away programs.

Warning suggested that financial considerations were primary in decisions about affiliations with both Study Abroad and Study Away programs since student participation in affiliated programs takes UPS financial aid and resources outside of the University. He also pointed out that the current institutional commitment to Study Abroad and not to Study Away provides more opportunities for students in the Humanities than to those in the Sciences and Social Sciences.

Hannaford suggested that for many students the lack of financial support for non-affiliated programs puts such programs out of reach. Oldis, who is presently applying for the Seamester program, asserted that the Subcommittee had overestimated the information and assistance available to students in applying for non-affiliated programs.

Barry added that the University must also consider to what extent affiliation with Study Away programs would draw students away from Study Abroad programs; promoting Study Abroad is an

institutional priority at present. Or would such affiliation increase the pool of students taking financial aid elsewhere?

General and lively discussion ensued about the process for pursuing affiliation with both Study Away and Study Abroad programs. Barry asserted that consideration of Study Abroad programs is based on student interest, the fees and costs associated with the program, and the academic integrity of the program; programs are considered by Jannie Meisberger in Study Abroad, by himself, and by the Committee. There was general agreement that the process and criteria for approval are unclear, and that the role of the Committee in the process was likewise unclear. Washburn emphasized that the Committee needs to send a clear message to faculty pursuing affiliation with Study Away programs about where to make their case.

Kontogeorgopoulos M/S/P a recommendation that the University consider Study Away programs for affiliation on a case-by-case basis, and that faculty pursuing such affiliation should contact Bill Barry.

At 8:50 Weinman-Jagosh M/S/P adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Pasco-Pranger